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GREENVILLE, MISS.  
DELTA DEMOCRAT-TIMES

E - 16,823  
S - 16,931

NOV 18 1975

## No to Bush

This is the worst possible time for the appointment of a partisan politician as director of the CIA, not that any time would be a good one. For that reason alone, the Senate should reject the nomination of George Bush for the post. Bush is a former Republican congressman, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and present envoy to China whose experience in national security matters is nonexistent. The agency desperately needs a man whose first allegiance is to the country and whose training is in the intelligence field. What President Ford is offering is an old political chum.

The recent illegal missteps by the CIA at home largely resulted from the eager willingness of agency officials to please the White House. The CIA was involved in Watergate because of the intimate political connections which flowed between the Nixon presidency and the agency. There is no step more calculated to further inflame public mistrust and suspicion three years after Watergate than to install a presidential crony at its head.

It is not enough for the

President to say that he wants "his team" around him. Congress has the constitutional right and duty to advise and consent in such nominations. With a fundamental review of the CIA's past, present and future still underway, it would be ill-advised to accept a nomination which many observers believe would be a mistake.

It would be a mistake because of its effect on the functioning of the CIA no less than for its effect on public opinion. The CIA has gone far afield since its creation, but there is still an absolute need for an efficient American intelligence apparatus. George Bush does not, can not have a notion about how such an organization should be created, controlled, channelled or reconstructed. Therefore, national security considerations also argue against his confirmation.

Gerald Ford says he has a right to his own men around him, but there is a more important right at stake here: the right of the American people to have confidence in their government. Congress should assert that right by rejecting George Bush.